

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 22, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 1 and 18 have been amended, and new claims 47 and 48 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 2, 12-18, 21, 24-26, 28, 30-32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43-44 and 47-48 are pending in the application, with claims 12-17, 24-26, 28, 30-32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43 and 44 being withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 18 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,454, issued to Kim et al. (hereafter "Kim"). Dependent claims 2 and 21 are rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,656, issued to Niwano, et al. (hereafter "Niwano"). Applicants respectfully submit the claims of the present application are not obvious. However, for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of this application, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 18 and 21 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Niwano. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Niwano fails to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Niwano fails to teach an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device "wherein at least one of the data and common electrodes, exclusive of outer electrodes of the pixel areas, is shielded, and wherein the first transmittance area equals the second transmittance area, as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application.

Niwano further fails to teach an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device including "data electrodes and common electrodes alternately formed in each of said pixel areas

and patterned to have the same light transmitting area according to applied voltage, wherein at least one of the data electrodes and common electrodes, exclusive of outer electrodes of the pixel areas, is shielded", as recited in independent claim 18 of the present application.

Because Niwano fails to teach at least the above features of independent claims 1 and 18, claim 1 and its dependent claim 2, and claim 18 and its dependent claim 21 are not anticipated by Niwano. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 47 and 48 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection for the originally disclosed invention. No new matter has been added.

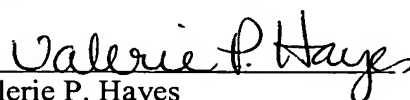
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: August 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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